

material adjacent the base. This is clearly shown in the drawing and the reinforcement band is clearly shown in the recess. The recess is clearly claimed as being located generally adjacent the base whereas the reinforcement member of Pham clearly is shown and taught as enclosing all but the base of the insulative material.

With respect to claim 2, Pham teaches using the reinforcement member as a mold not that the reinforcement member is integrally formed with the insulative housing as is clearly claimed herein.

Claim 3 has already been cancelled.

Claim 4 adds the limitation that the reinforcement band is substantially annular and when taken in combination with the claims from which it depends is allowable over the art of record.

Claim 5 has been cancelled in view of the fact that the reinforcement band is now disposed in a claimed recess and by definition, a recess cannot extend to the top. If it did it would not be a recess.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pham. The Examiner states that Pham inherently discloses the insulative housing including mounting portions adapted to receive securing means for securing said insulative housing to the fuel injector. The Examiner further states that the recitation that an element is "adapted to" perform a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner concerning the use of "adapted to." However, in order to avoid further disagreement, Applicants have amended claim 6 to replace "adapted" with the active word

"operative." Furthermore, Applicants submit that the securing means of Pham is not in the insulative material, it is in the reinforcement element 9. This is clearly described in Col. 5 lines 36-38 and shown in Fig. 4.

In view of the above noted amendments, Applicants believe that claims 1, 2, 4, and 6 are in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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